

REMARKS

Claims 18-32, 34-35, and 37-38 are pending in the Application and are now presented for examination. Claims 37 and 38 have been amended. Claims 1-17, 33, 36, and 39-41 have been canceled, without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter has been added. Claims 18, 28 and 38 are independent.

Amendments Made to Place Application in Condition for Allowance

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication on page 19 of the Office Action that Claims 18-32, 34 and 35 are allowed. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication on page 19 of the Office Action that Claim 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended Claim 38, thereby placing Claim 38 in condition for allowance. Claim 37 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 38, thereby placing Claim 37 in condition for allowance at least by virtue of its dependency on an allowable claim. Applicants have canceled the remaining rejected claims in order to place the Application in condition for allowance.

Patentability Under 35 USC §103

On page 6 of the Office Action, Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,611,513 to ten Brink in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,590 to Stein, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0036359 to Dent et al.

Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

On page 9 of the Office Action, Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ten Brink and Stein in view of Dent et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,813 to Jones et al. Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

On page 10 of the Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ten Brink in view of Stein and further in view of Dent et al. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

On page 11 of the Office Action, Claims 5, 6, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ten Brink and Stein in view of Dent et al. and further in view of Jones. Claims 5, 6, 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

On page 12 of the Office Action, Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ten Brink in view of Stein and further in view of Dent et al. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

On page 14 of the Office Action, Claims 8-10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ten Brink and Stein and in view of Dent et al. and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0051498 to Thomas. Claims 8-10 have been canceled without

prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

On page 15 of the Office Action, Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ten Brink in view of Stein and further in view of Dent et al. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

On page 17 of the Office Action, Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,085,314 to Zhu et al. in view of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0094460 to Tiedemann, JR. et al. As noted above, Claim 36 has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, and its features incorporated into allowable Claim 38.

On page 18 of the Office Action, Claims 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2006/0105761 to Walton et al. Claims 40-41 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

In sum, Applicants have taken those steps necessary to place the subject Application in condition for allowance, including canceling the rejected claims. Claims 18-32, 34-35, and 37-38 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No: **141315**

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